

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL RETREAT HELD ON
MONDAY MARCH 27, 28, AND 29TH, 2017 AT 8:00 A.M IN THE CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MONDAY MARCH 27, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MAYOR: Tonita Gurulé-Girón

COUNCILORS: David A. Ulibarri Jr.
Vince Howell
Barbara A Casey
David L. Romero - Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Trujillo, City Manager
Maire Lopez, Recorder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked that a roll call be taken. Roll call was taken and reflected the following.

Vince Howell	Yes	David Ulibarri Jr.	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Absent

Recorder Lopez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón thanked everyone for attending the retreat and looked forward to a positive year and moving forward with progress.

RETREAT OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Facilitator Felix Alderete gave an overview of the expectations of the day and the agenda packet he provided. Mr. Alderete spoke about the goals and objectives he observed while meeting with the department directors.

Mr. Alderete gave the analogy of a stool to symbolize building a successful team, each Governing Body member are legs of the stool, the City Manager and Mayor are the braces in between each leg. Mr. Alderete stressed the importance of communication.

The Governing Body had an open discussion regarding open communication, verifying information with one another and developing trust in each other and what each of them has to say.

Questions were asked about how the Governing Body can be transparent about information.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón explained the various ways the City has moved forward with being transparent with each other and the community.

Concerns were discussed that when additional items are added to the meetings it's difficult for the Governing Body to have all the information prior to making decisions.

City Manager Trujillo suggested that there be an item on the work session agenda to discuss any possible items that may be added to the regular meeting.

Discussion took place regarding trusting that the Mayor and City Manager are providing the correct information to the Governing Body to make decisions.

The Governing Body suggested that the Department Directors attend the council meetings so they are aware of the items being discussed and if there are questions they are able to answer them.

Mr. Alderete gave the Governing Body an overview of the discussions he had with the directors and the consensus from them on how to change the community, which would be to improve the economy, invite new businesses, and partner with other community entities for local outreach.

Discussion took place regarding community clean ups and getting people involved. Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised the Keep America Beautiful Coordinator has been actively doing presentations at the elementary schools about keeping the community clean and what they can do to help.

Discussion took place regarding the abatement of properties that are declared a nuisance and how the City can recover the costs that have been spent to clean up those properties.

Discussion took place on how the community can educate the younger generation working in the stores and restaurants about the history of Las Vegas and events that are upcoming. Councilor Casey advised there is a problem with the patients from the boarding homes being mean or aggressive towards tourists that visit.

Discussion took place about collaborating with the local entities and the non profits to work together to improve the quality of life for the community and helping new business become established in the community.

The Governing Body discussed possibilities of following along with Santa Fe and having no plastic bags in stores in an effort to eliminate plastic trash bags.

The Governing Body discussed how to provide funding and work with the local non profits but also not duplicating the work that each of them are proposing.

Discussion took place regarding ways the City can help other entities on the issues that affect the community as a whole such as the hospital OB/GYN being closed and trying to avoiding losing hospital staff and potentially hurting the community regarding health care.

Discussion took place on what the community can do to promote the positive events and attractions of the City to bring more people to visit and potentially come back and reside.

Discussion took place regarding the Community Development Department and the Public Information Officer having a key role to promoting a positive experience.

The Governing Body expressed needing open communication with the local school districts and work together to help one another. Discussion took place that the closure of several of the East District school buildings will greatly affect the City's utilities revenue.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised a main concern of the community is the rate hikes to the utilities and if the City could reduce the cost, however due to the debt service tied to a lot of loans for projects, the City cannot lower the utility rates.

City Manager Trujillo advised that with the current state of the economy there are limited resources available to provide continued services for the community and one example is the Senior Center Meals on Wheels program; the need has surpassed the funding available.

Discussion took place regarding tax rates and how the City can work with the State and see if there are tax credits that would be available for new businesses.

Discussion took place about small businesses and the small business revolution and how they can be self sustaining.

Councilor Casey advised she has spoken to many people that have closed their small businesses and the common complaint was that they felt they had no support from the City. Councilor Casey also advised when she wanted to open an antique shop, the packet she was given was very confusing and turned her away.

The discussion continued to the program at Luna Community College that is geared towards helping new businesses owners. The Governing Body agreed there needs to be a one stop shop when starting a business.

The Governing Body stressed the importance for the staff of the City to be knowledgeable, respectful and courteous to each member of the community that comes in.

Marketing discussion took place to promote the city and create an investment in the sales.

The Governing Body discussed the possibility to purchase the parachute factory and turn it into a convention center to attract small conventions and bring GRT to the community. Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised she would like to see the community become an Olympic trainer location and this would give the younger generation an opportunity to meet Olympic athletes.

Discussion took place regarding the time limit placed on public input during meetings.

Discussion took place regarding the charter; the code book and the personnel ordinance being inconsistent and need to be corrected.

The retreat convened for the evening with an informal adjournment.

TUESDAY MARCH 28, 2017

PRESENT: Richard Trujillo, City Manager
Juan Montano, Police Chief
Annette Velarde, Community Development Director
Pamela Marrujo, Community Services Director
Veronica Gentry, Public Works Director,
Carmela Martinez, Housing Director
David L. Romero, Ward 4 Councilor
Maria Gilvarry, Utilities Director
Corinna Laszlo-Henry, City Attorney

Ann Marie Gallegos, Finance Director
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk/HR Director
Billy Montoya, Fire Chief

Mr. Alderete gave an overview of the answers the directors provided to him during their interviews on what they see has the major impacts to the community and their particular positions. Mr. Alderete gave an overview of the goals and objectives the Governing Body developed. Mr. Alderete spoke to the Directors about how important trust in your coworkers is.

Mr. Alderete gave the directors an overview of the priorities they developed the day prior and how important transparency is to the Governing Body and the roundtable discussion the City would like to develop with local entities to work together to improve the community.

Discussion took place on ways to improve economic development and improving the financial sustainability. Discussion took place on the historic preservation grants that could be applied to help improve the look of the old buildings that are falling into disrepair and identify the assets the community has and market those.

Discussion took place on the importance of continuously following up to make improvements and improve customer service.

Discussion took place regarding the collection of past due utilities bills and the placement of liens.

Discussion took place regarding boarding homes within the community.

The directors continued to review and discuss the priorities that the Governing Body identified and how to improve on them throughout the community.

The retreat adjourned for the day.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2017

MAYOR: Tonita Gurulé-Girón

COUNCILORS: David A. Ulibarri Jr.
Vince Howell
Barbara A Casey
David L. Romero

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Trujillo, City Manager
Juan Montano, Police Chief

Annette Velarde, Community Development Director
Pamela Marrujo, Community Services Director
Veronica Gentry, Public Works Director,
Carmela Martinez, Housing Director
David L. Romero, Ward 4 Councilor
Maria Gilvarry, Utilities Director
Corinna Laszlo-Henry, City Attorney
Ann Marie Gallegos, Finance Director
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk/HR Director
Billy Montoya, Fire Chief

Mr. Alderete gave the Governing Body an overview of the discussions that took place with the directors. The directors feel that they need more time, more staff and more financial means for the departments to accomplish the Governing Body's goal and objectives.

The Governing Body had discussion about the process of placing items on the agenda for meetings for consideration and they feel there is no input from them to place items.

Discussion took place to work together to amend policies and procedures to make the city ordinances and city charter reflect the same information.

Discussion took place on how the Governing Body can set the structure of the meetings, rules and procedures.

Paul Cassidy from RBC Fund Management gave an overview of the capital bonds and debt service that the City currently has.

Questions and discussion took place regarding financial constraints the City is facing and what the departments have to do to keep services running with less funding than they have had in the past.

Final discussion took place regarding the goals and objectives set forth by Mayor and Council and the input from department directors and how they can move the community forward and improve the quality of life.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised she will continue with her promise of the City being more financially responsible, improving customer service and moving the City forward and thanked the City Manager and department directors for their commitment and hard work.

Councilor Howell made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

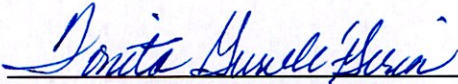
Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for a roll call. Roll call was taken and reflected the following.

David Ulibarri Jr. Yes
Barbara Casey Yes

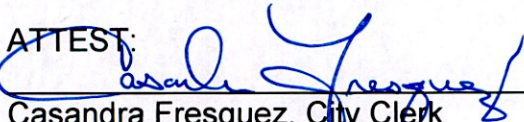
Vince Howell Yes
David L. Romero Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN



Mayor Tonita Gurule-Giron

ATTEST:


Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk